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## Letter from Thomas G. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1857 April 7

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The Home April 7<sup>th</sup> /57

My dear B in

Last evening's mail brought me two letters one from Bouffay and the other of your furniture. He informs me that he had written to me in it & was last informing me about the furniture - From the magazine of hieroglyphics I gather - That all your furniture has been finished some time and is ready to send it forthwith & says me to send him funds, for which he stands much in need & hopes that nothing will prevent my doing so by return of mail. He says that the large frame for the looking glass is magnificent & the glass 1<sup>st</sup> choice of first quality.

a piece of furniture for to stand under one of your looking glasses

A Gothic fire screen with painted glass on 2 plaques, no "what nots".

The galleries for your window curtains & the statuettes for holding up the curtains one plate of glass to replace the one broken for fire screen - making in all fourteen pieces - They are all the work of elaboration & admirable execution & finish & have been visited by great numbers and praised by all who have seen them -

They and all box set & ready to be shipped you may suppose that I feel a great

Rush spoke for Turen & - I have say nothing, we can I move in the matter my course is commanded & that is quick until called - & The appointments should may not unless the President tells Mr. Rush wants not be reached for a month or six weeks - I am very much occupied in various ways & have to go in to Washington on pressing business this morning & write three paper lines so that there may be no delay about your own business - per 4 652 at say five francs to the dollar. Money about \$930 - ~~say~~ say to William if you see him shortly that I am much pressed for time & if he has nothing to do ask him to come here & see me - If I can get leave I will go up to Allegheny for I very much want to see your furniture & wrong for I suppose there is nothing like them in the world - & particularly ~~the~~ you get three new combs which are all large & capital pieces -

Do not mention & say to William not to speak of the matter of my appointment for it wants not do for the papers to get hold of it. And as we are told not to put our trust in Purvis I shall not be positive that it will take place until I have my credentials in my pocket - Culham is sick to day, but the rest will and all I am in love to all yours very truly J. G. Clemens & Boston 11

relief for the whole matter has given  
me a great deal of anxiety & trouble.

There is now due me on all your  
furniture that which I have enumerated  
above, duty & every thing included  
the sum of four thousand six hundred &  
fifty two francs - which please send  
me at your early convenience -

I can not tell now whether I shall be  
able to get these last articles through  
the custom house at any other than the  
customary rates. Every thing has changed  
with the new administration. But

there is one chance which if I can  
effect I will. I will do my best for you  
but as I said before it is doubtful and will  
depend on circumstances - Had it come six  
months ago the matter would not have been  
doubtful - Still I do not despair -

Much will depend upon my being in  
the United States to present & what I can  
effect through a friend -

I say now in confidence that in all  
human probability - I shall be again  
sent abroad. But above all things  
do not speak of it to any one but  
William who I should like to see.

I say in all human probability, because  
without my being informed of the fact previous  
to its occurrence, & without my having spoken  
to any one about place & appointment  
The King of Belgium & the Government  
of that nation have made a formal  
application upon <sup>a</sup> to the President & his  
cabinet requesting my appointment to  
again represent the United States at the  
Court of Brussels - The Belgian minister  
told me that he had seen Genl. Cass  
& Genl. Cass informed him that he would  
write to his Government & inform them  
with of the communication had between them  
The sum of which was that there were no objections  
to Mr. Clemens - Besides which I know  
that the President told Genl. Rusk of Texas  
who went to the President to ask him for  
the place of Brussels for Texas & afterward  
Mr. Buchanan announced that it was most  
remarkable that Brussels should be more sought  
after than all the other Empires to Europe  
But that the King of Belgium had paid  
a citizen of the United States the high com-  
pliment of requesting his appointment  
to Belgium, so that in my opinion of the question  
for him to give him Brussels, where Mr.